

Braintree Catholic Collaborative



St. Francis of Assisi Church

856 Washington Street
Braintree, Massachusetts

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:30PM
Sunday: 9:00, 11:30AM and
6:00PM

Monday –Friday: 7:00AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 12:30-1:30PM

Collaborative Staff

Rev. Robert M. Blaney, Pastor
Rev. Kevin P. Leaver, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Joseph MacDonald, Collaborative Deacon/
Music Director
Deacon James Waldron, Collaborative Deacon
Mrs. Karen Lane, Director of Religious Education
Ms. Patty Kinnally, Office Manager
Mr. Kevin Mercier, Business Manager
Mr. Cecil O'Brien, Facilities
Mrs. Karen Whitney, Receptionist
Msgr. Robert W. Oliver, In Residence
Rev. Wellington Oliveira, In Residence
Deacon Michael Cavanaugh, Senior Deacon

Contact Information

www.braintreecatholic.org
781-843-1332 | Fax: 781-848-0976

Collaborative Office and Mailing Address

856 Washington Street
Braintree, MA 02184

St. Clare of Assisi Church

1244 Liberty Street
Braintree, Massachusetts

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00PM
Sunday: 7:45, 10:15AM

Saturday: 8:00AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: Following the 8AM Mass

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 9:00AM-4:00PM
Friday: 9:00-1:00

Sacrament of Marriage

A minimum of six months notice is required. Please call the Collaborative Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a venue.

Sacrament of Baptism

2nd Sunday of the month at St. Clare at **1:00PM**
3rd Sunday of the month at St. Francis at **1:00PM**
Please call the Collaborative Office to register

Sacrament of the Sick & Communion Calls

Please notify the Collaborative Office if anyone is hospitalized or unable to attend Mass because of illness.

Bulletin Deadline

All requests must be submitted to the Collaborative Office by Monday at 1PM. Email to parish@sfab.org

Mass Intentions

St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, January , 2026

5:30PM Daniel Barselou Memorial

Sunday, February 1, 2026

9:00AM Sr. Margaret Louise, CSJ and Sr. Annceta, CSJ Memorial

11:30AM Daniel Crimmins and Kathleen Crimmins Memorial Healing

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, February 2, 2026

7:00AM

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

7:00AM

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

7:00AM

Thursday, February 5, 2026

9:30AM

Friday, February 6, 2026

7:00AM

Saturday, February 7, 2026

5:30PM Maria "Cathy" Leitao 4th Anniv.

Sunday, February 8, 2026

9:00AM George Picewick 3rd Anniv.

11:30AM Patricia & Harry Handry Memorial

6:00PM Robert Hester 12th Anniv.



If you are interested in the Online Giving option for either parish to simplify your weekly contributions, please contact the collaborative office or scan the QR code below.



We are now booking Mass Intentions for **January 1 through June 30, 2026**. To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332.

Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, January 31, 2026

8:00AM

4:00PM Arduino DiCenso 7th Anniv.

Sunday, February 1, 2026

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Gerald Ridge, Sr. and Ann Ridge 11 Anniv. 2nd Anniv.

Saturday, February 7, 2026

8:00AM Pauline F. O'Brien Memorial

4:00PM John Twomey Memorial

Sunday, February 1, 2026

7:45AM Parishioners of the Collaborative

10:15AM Wadi Bitar and Abdallah Khnaizir 4th Anniv. 5th Anniv.

Info and events of note

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry Open Thursdays at St. Francis from 10AM-12NN.** If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referrals and limited financial assistance are available for parishioners in need.
- **Collaborative Prayer Line...** To be placed (or to pray) on the parish prayer line, please call the Collaborative office.
- **Military Service...** If someone you know is deployed and you would like their info to appear on the blue board in the church, please call or email the parish office.
- **AI-Anon ...** Tuesdays at 10:30 in St. Clare Church Hall
- **Boy Scout Troop #138 ...** Wednesdays at 7:00PM in St. Clare Church Hall.—Contact John Collier at 781-843-3330
- **Braintree Knights of Columbus...** Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM in St. Francis Church Hall.
- **Community Meal...** 1st Wednesday of the month at 5:30PM in St. Francis church hall.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.





Sacramentals are an important part of Catholic life. A sacramental is any object or ritual that fosters our faith, such as rosary beads, scapulars, holy water, statues, holy pictures, etc. These are generally blessed objects that are set aside for sacred use. As mentioned, they may also take the form of a ritual such as the blessing of a house or car, imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday or saying grace before meals. By using sacramentals we are better disposed to receive the grace of the Sacraments and cooperate with it.

One of the Church's sacramentals we use this weekend: the Blessing of Throats. February 3 is the Memorial of St. Blaise, a bishop in Armenia during the 4th century. It has been a long tradition in the Church to ask for his intercession on his feast day for the grace of health. Since it was through the throat by which disease was thought to enter the body, the Church blesses throats to ask for God's grace of health. The blessing typically involves placing blessed candles against the throat (yes, yes! another sacramental!) and asking for Bishop Blaise's intercession. (As I write these words there is the threat of a snow storm for this coming weekend. If we are not able to bless throats this weekend, we will do so next weekend)

So as to foster greater devotion to Christ, it's important to keep sacramentals around the house: crucifixes, statues or pictures of the Sacred Heart, Blessed Mother or the saints, holy water, artwork from the Bible, palms. And always good to have a Bible nearby! These may seem like little things. In many ways they are, in so much that they are not essential to the faith, as are the Sacraments. Nevertheless, they keep the memory alive in our day to day lives and help to make us ready to receive God's divine assistance. Without such reminders, we can easily become oblivious to what God is doing around us, through us and for us.

When Sacramentals no longer serve their purpose, are damaged or worn, they should be discarded in a way that demonstrates reverence. Typically, sacramentals should be buried in the earth. They should never be thrown into the trash. If you have sacramentals that are damaged or no longer serve their purpose, please bring them to the rectory and we will discard of them properly.

Mass Vestments

As we continue to look at the vestments for Mass this week

we focus on the *chasuble*. The chasuble is the outer vestment worn by a bishop or priest at Mass, and only at Mass. The word itself means "little house" or "tent". In a sense, when a priest goes to celebrate Mass he enters God's tent to offer the sacrifice, as the priest of ancient Jewish days would enter the Temple to offer sacrifice. When a bishop or priest offers Mass, it is Christ Himself who presides. The Church teaches that the priest is *alter Christus* or another Christ. The Sacrament of Holy Orders configures the priest in such a way then we he celebrates Mass, baptizes, absolves sins, anoints the sick, it is Christ who does so. The chasuble is meant to be an outward sign to the congregation of this reality. Even more so, it should be a reminder to the priest of the awesome mystery he confects (brings about) the Eucharist.

Over the centuries the chasuble has taken on various shapes and styles. The Roman style was used primarily in the pre-Vatican II or Tridentine Mass. It was relatively small fitting over the shoulders and often with an ornate backing, which made sense given that the faithful saw the back of the priest during the sacrifice of the Mass. Today the chasuble is more ample in cut and simpler in decoration. Pope Benedict XVI was known for wearing chasubles from different periods in Church history.

Save the dates!

Wednesday, February 18: Lent begins!

Monday-Wednesday, March 9-11:

Collaborative Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 14: St. Patrick Dinner

Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday

and beginning of Holy Week

Sunday, April 5: Easter

Saturday mornings of Lent: a mini-course on the teachings of the Second Vatican Council



"Blessed

*are you when they insult you
and persecute you and utter every kind
of evil against you falsely because of me.*

*Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be
great in heaven."*

Matthew 5:11-12a



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Many of you know that I am a whistler. I whistle first thing in the morning, much to my wife's chagrin. I whistle in the afternoon and in the evening. I whistle when I walk and when I drive. I whistle loud and sometimes under my breath. Many times, I don't even realize I'm whistling. Oh, I just noticed that I'm whistling while I write this.

As you know I had surgery a couple of weeks ago and for a week or ten days I was convinced that they had done a secret whistlectomy. Well, if they did – it failed. Folks, good news, I have my whistle back!

Enough about whistling. If you are as old as I am, or at least close, you might remember one of the very early childhood programs called "Romper Room." It was like a nursery school setting and Miss Jean referenced something she called "do-bees." For example, do be kind to each other. Everyone wanted to be a good "do-bee."

Miss Jean wasn't the first one to come up with this idea. Today's Gospel begins the great Sermon on the Mount, specifically the Beatitudes. These are the attitudes we need to live good lives. Lives that correspond to God's will. Each of them comes with a promise.

Let's just take a look at the first one. In Luke's Gospel he speaks of the actual poor "Blessed are the poor." Matthew adds something more. He adds a spiritual aspect to it "Blessed are the poor in spirit." What exactly does he mean by this?

The poor in spirit are those who bow humbly before God in total trust. Those who are fragile and look to God alone for safety. This may include the actual poor, but it can also include the wealthy, those who despite their wealth understand that ultimately riches mean nothing. They can be taken from us. Famine can strike even the rich. The wealthy are not immune from disease or death. They suffer all the things the poor do except actual poverty. The poor and the rich alike need to know their total reliance on God.

There is another passage from Mark's Gospel that I think might help us unpackage this.

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing

his hands on them. (Mark 10:13-16)

The verse I want to focus on is this: "Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Obviously, this does not mean we should be immature. It does not mean we should act like children. My wife and I have four grandchildren. Two of them are a bit older and are becoming self-sufficient. The other two are still very young. Little Gussie (Augustus) is 8 months old. He really can't do anything on his own. If he's hungry, he can't go make breakfast, if he has a dirty diaper, he can't clean himself up. A child that age is totally reliant on his parents for EVERYTHING! That is what it means to accept the Kingdom of God like a little child. To realize that even though we may often think we have things under control – we don't. We are fragile creatures. Just look at the havoc last week's storm caused. People who took electricity and heat for granted lost it all over night. And millions are still left out in the cold.

My friends, our relationship with God should be more like a little child's in that we understand that everything and I mean everything comes from God and that we are totally reliant on Him in good times and in bad.

And I'm not just whistling Dixie.

READINGS, SAINTS, OBSERVANCES 2026

SUNDAY Feb 1	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/ Mt 5:1-12a
MONDAY Feb 2	The Presentation of the Lord Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
TUESDAY Feb 3	<i>Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar, Bishop</i> 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43
WEDNESDAY Feb 4	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6
THURSDAY Feb 5	<i>Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr</i> 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chron 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13
FRIDAY Feb 6	<i>Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i> Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29
SATURDAY Feb 7	1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34
SUNDAY Feb 8	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

Pilot Bulletins



**PRAY FOR
VOCATIONS**

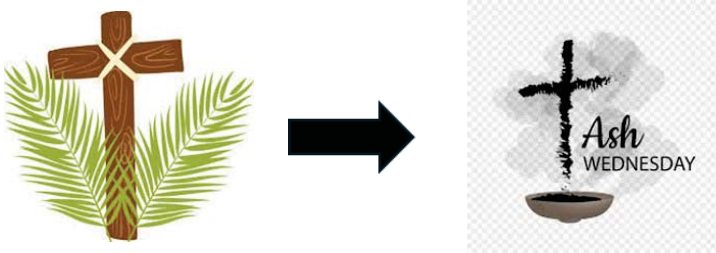


Congratulations to all the children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last week. Their courage, honesty, and openness to God's grace remind us all of the beauty of beginning again with a clean heart. The sheep they made will be a reminder that Jesus the Good Shepherd will always come for them. May the peace they felt in this sacrament stay with them and grow as they continue their journey toward First Communion.



Lent will be here before we know it! Lent is a time of preparation and renewal - a season to return to prayer, to practice meaningful sacrifice, and to open our hearts in acts of charity.

Did you know that the ashes that are used for Ash Wednesday come from the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday?



Since the palms that were brought home last year were blessed, they should NOT go in the trash. Blessed items may be buried in the ground or burned respectfully. Ashes from burned items can be returned to the earth. This applies to things like palms, rosaries, medals, prayer cards, and other sacramentals.

We will have baskets at each church to collect your palms from previous years. May this practice remind us of the sacredness of the objects that accompany us in our life of faith.



We are starting a Braintree Catholic Collaborative Women's Group focusing on fellowship, community building, and spiritual growth. This will be a space to connect, pray, socialize, and grow in faith together. If you're interested in joining or learning more, please come to a **Kickoff Event** **Saturday, February 7, 10:30 a.m. in the St. Clare Hall**. We will brainstorm ideas for the group: how often/where to meet, types of activities like book/topic discussions, parish outreach, guest speakers, etc.

Please feel free to contact Jeanne Mackin at mackinjeanne@gmail.com or Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org with any questions. Looking forward to seeing you and hearing your ideas for this group!

QUIZ

Can you choose the correct endings?

1. The Lord would leave as a remnant:
(a) a people humble and lowly (b) a strong army
(c) those he had rejected?

2. Happy the poor in spirit, for theirs is:
(a) influence over others (b) a life without
trouble (c) the kingdom of heaven?

3. To shame the strong, God chose:
(a) the clever (b) those of royal descent
(c) the weak of this world?

4. Blest are the single-hearted, for they:
(a) shall see God (b) shall achieve their goals
(c) shall conquer others?

5. Be glad when you are slandered and
persecuted because of Christ, for:
(a) God will save you (b) your reward in heaven
is great (c) your opponents will die?

ANSWERS

The correct answers are: 1(a); 2(c); 3(c); 4(a); 5(b)

Sunday Funday © Pilot Bulletins



Stay tuned for information regarding our 3rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner to be held on Saturday, March 14 at St. Francis of Assisi.



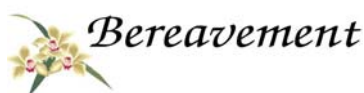
February 1: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In the Gospel today Jesus gives us the Beatitudes, which embody a radically alternative vision of life and we find that God

indeed calls us to blessedness.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul proclaims the gospel of the kingdom and brings healing to the broken hearts of those who live in poverty.

Pantry donations can be dropped off at the Collaborative office during normal business hours (M-F 9-4). **Blue envelopes are in holders on the back inside wall of the church. Please use them for your cash, check (written to St. Vincent DePaul with SFA on the memo line), or gift card—and place them into the collection basket or through the rectory mail slot.**



Support Group

Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? If you are interested in talking about your grief and need support in your grief healing, we are again beginning our bereavement classes. They will be every Saturday at 10:30AM at St. Francis of Assisi church hall. The hour-long meeting will help you bring your suffering to the Lord and also allow you to know others who are going through something similar.

Meetings will meet weekly from 10:30—11:30AM. No sign-up or commitment, just a place to come and find comfort.

"What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we loved deeply becomes part of us."

Helen Keller



The next Community Meal is scheduled for THIS Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Weather Emergencies—Our Collaborative follows the school weather emergency policy. For safety purposes, if Braintree schools are closed due to snow or extreme weather, there will be NO daily Mass. Please be safe.



Dear Father Blaney & Faithful Parishioners of St. Clare's

You are such a blessing and faithful friend to "Friends". We have received your extremely generous Giving Tree donation of gift cards totaling \$4,345.00. We are blessed and touched beyond measure by your sacrifice!

May God bless you for caring so deeply, for loving so generously, and for sharing so selflessly in the Gospel work of our ministry. You reveal the work of your heart by the support of our moms and their babies. Please know we blanket you and your loved ones in prayer in this New Year.

In His Name,

Joan Bailey, Executive Director (Friends of the Unborn)



St. Francis of Assisi

Richard Wrublewski

St. Clare

Leo Rice

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the online giving option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2025 please call the collaborative office at 781-843-1332. **In accordance with federal regulations contribution statements have been mailed to any parishioner who has made a single contribution of \$250 or more.** If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or online giving system, but would like to; or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Patty Kinnally in the collaborative office.

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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"He has risen." Matt 28:6

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